

## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : The Projects Review Committee

DATE: 20 October 1950

FROM : Assistant Director, ORE

SUBJECT: Proposed project to determine Soviet Capabilities in Geodesy and Cartography, Request for Approval

Submitted herewith for the consideration of the Committee is a proposal of the Map Division, ORE, for a comprehensive project to determine Soviet capabilities in geodesy and mapping. The research will be undertaken by 25X1A5a1

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under a contractual agreement, with supervision provided by the Map Division, CIA.

The purpose of the project is to make a comprehensive and systematic survey of the entire Soviet geodetic and cartographic structure on the basis of available information. From the results of this survey, national intelligence estimates will be prepared, which will indicate Soviet foreign and domestic mapping capabilities for serving current and future Soviet military requirements. A comparison will be made of the status of development of Soviet and U.S. geodesy and cartography to determine whether the Soviets possess any advantages in scientific and organizational resources. This research will provide the highest policy levels of the U.S. Government with information on a vital aspect of Soviet military capabilities of a type that heretofore has not been available. This information could provide an additional basic index to Soviet aggressive intentions and timing. The project will also provide a sounder foundation 25X1X7

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for mapping the U.S.S.R. and, as a consequence, will expedite production and insure a better final product. During the course of the project, Soviet scientific developments, theories, and techniques in the earth sciences that may be uncovered in Soviet source materials will be noted for the use of the Office of Scientific Intelligence, CIA.

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is uniquely qualified to undertake the project by virtue of its staff of experts in geodesy, cartography, and related sciences, as well as by the knowledge and experience gained on several U.S. Air Force projects. Through the project, CIA would provide a centralized and coordinated intelligence program of a type that U.S. military agencies could not undertake because of their compartmentalized interests.

The proposal has been coordinated and the objectives of the project have been heartily endorsed by the Photographic and Survey Section of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the Geodetic Division of the Army Map Service, the Aeronautical Chart Service, and the U.S. Navy Hydrographic Office. The

*Geodetic Division of the Army Map Service is particularly interested in the procurement and processing of information from not now available in this country.*

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Request is made for the approval of the project and the commitment of [REDACTED] as itemized in Appendix C, to finance it over a period of two years. The estimate of costs has been carefully examined and is recommended as reasonable. Both the size of the staff and the salary scale are conservative in relation to the scope of the project and the professional competence *required*.

The professional supervision of the project by the Map Division, ORE, will provide close monitoring and frequent ~~and~~ examination of priorities, as well as a continuous check on direction of effort and rate of progress. Every effort would be made to utilize available IAC channels and resources to support the project, in order that the professional capabilities of the Laboratory may be exploited to the fullest possible extent.

Details of security control and procedures would have to be established in accordance with the instructions of the Executive for Inspection and Security.

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